

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the applications.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A ferrite magnetic material characterized by comprising an oxide having a composition wherein:

metal elements Sr, Ba and Fe in total have a composition ratio represented by the formula  $\text{Sr}_{(1-x)}\text{Ba}_x\text{Fe}^{2+}_a\text{Fe}^{3+}_b$  in which

$$0.03 \leq x \leq 0.80,$$

$$1.1 \leq a \leq 2.4, \text{ and}$$

$$12.3 \leq b \leq 16.1, \text{ and}$$

one or two of a Ca constituent and a Si constituent as additives in the following amounts, respectively, in terms of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and  $\text{SiO}_2$ :

$\text{CaCO}_3$ : 0 to 3.0 wt% and  $\text{SiO}_2$ : 0.2 to 1.4 wt%.

2. (original) The ferrite magnetic material according to claim 1, characterized in that said oxide is represented by  $\text{Sr}_{(1-x)}\text{Ba}_x\text{Fe}^{2+}_a\text{Fe}^{3+}_b\text{O}_{27}$ .

3. (original) The ferrite magnetic material according to claim 1, characterized in that the ferrite magnetic material comprises a W-type hexagonal ferrite as a main phase.

4. (original) The ferrite magnetic material according to claim 1, characterized in that said  $x$  falls within a range of  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.65$ .

5. (currently amended) The ferrite ~~magnetic material~~ sintered magnet according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 18, characterized in that the ferrite ~~magnetic material~~ sintered magnet comprises one or two of a Ca constituent and a Si constituent as additives in the following contents, respectively, in terms of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and  $\text{SiO}_2$ :

$\text{CaCO}_3$ : 0 to 3.0 wt% and  $\text{SiO}_2$ : 0.2 to 1.4 wt%.

6. (original) The ferrite magnetic material according to claim 1, characterized in that the ferrite magnetic material forms any of a ferrite sintered magnet, a ferrite magnet powder, a bonded magnet as a ferrite magnet powder dispersed in a resin, and a magnetic recording medium as a film-type magnetic phase.

7. (original) The ferrite magnetic material according to claim 6, characterized in that said ferrite sintered magnet has a mean grain size of  $0.6 \mu\text{m}$  or less.

8. (original) A ferrite sintered magnet, characterized in that the ferrite sintered magnet comprises a W-type hexagonal ferrite comprising Sr and Ba as a magnetic phase and

is comprised of a sintered body having a mean grain size of 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

9. (original) The ferrite sintered magnet according to claim 8, characterized in that the ferrite sintered magnet has a coercive force ( $H_{cJ}$ ) of 3000 Oe or more, a residual magnetic flux density ( $B_r$ ) of 4600 G or more and a squareness ratio ( $H_k/H_{cJ}$ ) of 85% or more.

10. (original) The ferrite sintered magnet according to claim 8, characterized in that Ba/Sr + Ba (molar ratio) is 0.03 to 0.80.

11. (original) The ferrite sintered magnet according to claim 8, characterized in that Ba/Sr + Ba (molar ratio) is 0.10 to 0.65.

12. (original) The ferrite sintered magnet according to claim 11, characterized in that the ferrite sintered magnet has a coercive force ( $H_{cJ}$ ) of 3200 Oe or more, a residual magnetic flux density ( $B_r$ ) of 4600 G or more and a squareness ratio ( $H_k/H_{cJ}$ ) of 85% or more.

Claims 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 (cancelled).

18. (new) A ferrite sintered magnet characterized by comprising an oxide having a composition wherein:

metal elements Sr, Ba and Fe in total have a composition ratio represented by the formula  $\text{Sr}_{(1-x)}\text{Ba}_x\text{Fe}^{2+}_a\text{Fe}^{3+}_b$  in which

$$0.03 \leq x \leq 0.80,$$

$$1.1 \leq a \leq 2.4, \text{ and}$$

$$12.3 \leq b \leq 16.1, \text{ and wherein}$$

said ferrite sintered magnet has a mean grain size of  $0.6 \mu\text{m}$  or less.